

\$1.00
1982
02645

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

KING-SIZE ANNUAL!

ALL-NEW
MARVEL
MAYHEM!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMIC CODE
ADMINISTRATION

ROM

I'VE STRIPPED YOU
OF YOUR ARMOR,
SPACEKNIGHT...

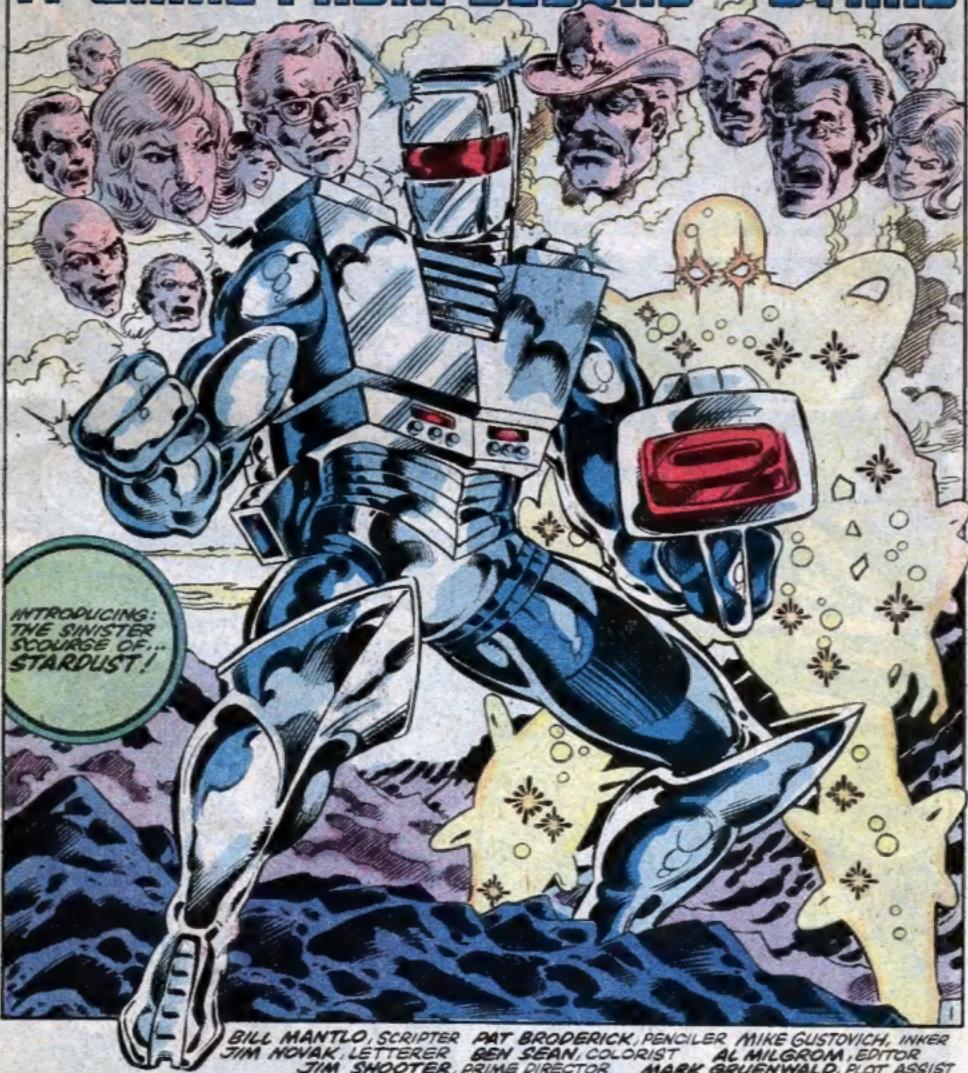
...NOW I'LL
TAKE YOUR
LIFE!



Two-hundred years ago, the evil Dirs Wraiths threatened the peace-loving planet, Galador. In their homeworld's darkest hour, a thousand brave, young Galadorians sacrificed humanity itself to become Cyborg Warriors, a last desperate line of defense. Though hopelessly outnumbered, these Spaceknights triumphed, and pursued the remnants of the Wraith horde across the universe. Now, alone in the Enemy's mightiest stronghold, on a backward planet called Earth, one Galadorian Warrior faces his most awesome challenge.

STAR LEE PRESENTS THE GREATEST OF THE SPACEKNIGHTS - ROM!

IT CAME FROM BEYOND THE STARS



BILL MANTLO, SCRIPTER PAT BRODERICK, PENCILER MIKE GUSTOVICH, INKER
JIM NOVAK, LETTERER BEN SEAN, COLORIST AL MILGROM, EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER, PRIME DIRECTOR MARK BRUENWALD, PLOT ASSIST

ROM™ ANNUAL Vol. 1, No. 1, 1982. Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP. James E. Galkin, President; Star Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing; Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. 100% Newsprint annual. ROM™ is a trademark of PARKER BROTHERS, and likeness of the character to which that name is applied is the property of PARKER BROTHERS. ROM™ is a trademark of PARKER BROTHERS BROTHERS. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition.

PROLOGUE

DEEP SPACE,
UNTOLD LIGHT
YEARS AWAY.

TURIN G'AR,
THE BODY HAS
SEEN FIT TO
CONVICT YOU OF
UNMUTUAL
ACTS!

I AM
INNOCENT!

DO NOT PURGE
YOURSELF FURTHER.
IN THE ONENESS OF
THE BODY, YOUR
CRIME IS KNOWN
TO ALL.

IT IS OUR
JUDGMENT THAT
YOU BE EXPELLED
FROM THE
BODY--

--AND
BOUND
IN BANDS
OF STAR-
STUFF.

NO! I
REPENT MY
UNMUTUALITY!
LET ME MERGE
AGAIN WITH THE
BODY!

DO NOT
BANISH ME
TO THE COLD
BEYOND!

THERE IS NO RESPONSE. THE STAR-
STUFF BONDS CUT OFF ALL THOUGHT
TRANSMISSION TO THE BODY. TURIN
G'AR IS ALONE.





CHAPTER ONE NIGHT FRIGHT!

FOR THE BETTER PART OF A DAY, THE SILVER CYBORG SPACEKNIGHT--ROM--HAS FELT UNEASY. HIS BIOCIRCUITS QUIVERING WITH A SENSE OF SOME GREAT EVIL ABOUT TO OCCUR.

HE HAS LEARNED BETTER THAN TO DISCOUNT THOSE FEELINGS. THEY HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE MORE THAN ONCE IN HIS UNENDING WAR AGAINST THE DIRE WRAITHS.

ROCKET-PODS ROARING, ROM HAS SOARED FORTH IN SEARCH OF WRAITH-KIND. HIS ENERGY ANALYZER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL FIND A CONCENTRATION OF HIS FOE-MEN HERE, IN CARSON'S GLEN.

STRANGELY, HIS ENERGY ANALYZER HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT ROM WILL ENCOUNTER... SOMETHING ELSE!

KEEP SEARCHING! THEM KIDS HAVE GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE!

WE'VE HAD KIDS GET LOST BEFORE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

BATS, BALLS, GLOVES... ALL LEFT STREWN ABOUT THE BALL-FIELD--!

IF THIS IS A GAME, WE'LL TAN THEIR HIDES!

IN THEIR HEARTS, THE SEARCHERS ALREADY SUSPECT THEY ARE NOT INVOLVED IN A GAME.

A COMMUNITY DESPERATELY
SEARCHES THE FOOTHILLS FOR
ITS MISSING CHILDREN.

HAVE I COME
UPON A PLOT
OF WRAITH
DESIGN?

I DETECT NO
WRAITHS
AMONG THE
SEARCH-
PARTY

ONLY MEN--
FRIGHTENED,
FEARFUL
MEN.

SET ON WIDE-BEAM,
ROM'S ENERGY
ANALYZER SCANS THE
MEN ASSEMBLED
BELOW HIM.



AND SOMETHING OTHER
... SOMETHING NOT OF
THIS WORLD... FURTHER
UP THE SLOPES.

PING PING
PING



LET THE HUMANS SEARCH
IN THEIR OWN FASHION,
WITH FLASHLIGHTS AND
BAYING DOGS.

I WILL FOLLOW THE
ENERGY-TRAIL MY
ANALYZER HAS
DETECTED, TO
ITS SOURCE.



DARK AGAINST DEEP SHADOW, A
CAVE NESTLES, HIDDEN AMIDST THE
HIGH HILLS.

WITHIN THE CAVE:
THE CHILDREN...

...AND TURIN
G'AR.

A TENTACLE OF
PUREST THOUGHT
TOUCHES THE FIRST
WARM-THING.

CARBON-BASED
LIFE-FORMS, MINER-
ALS AND COMPLEX
AMINO ACIDS SUSPEN-
DED IN A NUTRIENT
BROTH.

I WOULD
BE LIKE
THEM!

WELL, NOT
EXACTLY.

THE STARSTUFF BINDING ME
PREVENTS ME ONLY FROM RETAINING
THE BODY--NOT FROM STEALING
THE ESSENCE OF OTHERS!

THE LIFE-ESSENCE
OF... CHILDREN.







AS THE PARENTS OF CARSON'S GLEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVE THEIR CHILDREN, THERE ARE THOSE IN THE GATHERING CROWD WHO RECOGNIZE ROM AT ONCE!

THE SPACE-KNIGHT--
HERE! HE
MUST HAVE
DETECTED
OUR
PRESENCE!

IMPOSSIBLE! THE
JAMMING DEVICES
ON OUR BELTS
SHOULD SHIELD US
FROM HIS ACCURSED
ENERGY
ANALYZER!

WHATEVER HARMED THE
HUMAN CHILDREN DREW
HIM HITHER! IT WAS NOT
OUR DOING!

BUT THE
SPACEKNIGHT
WILL BLAME
US FOR IT--

--AND THE INSIPID
EARTHLINGS MAY
WELL BELIEVE
THE NOBLE
GALADORIAN...
UNLESS WE
SHIFT THE
BLAME TO
ROM!

THESE TWO ARE HUMAN-
DISSUED DIRE WRAITHS.
EOONS AGO, ROM AND HIS
FELLOW SPACEKNIGHTS
DEFEATED THE WRAITH
INVASION OF GALADOR...

...AND DROVE THE EVIL ONES FROM THEIR OWN
DARK NEBULA OUT INTO THE VASTNESS OF
SPACE. SWEARING REVENGE, THE WRAITHS
BEGAN TO REBUILD THEIR STRENGTH ON OTHER
WORLDS... WORLDS SUCH AS EARTH.

YOUR CHILDREN
URGENTLY REQUIRE
MEDICAL CARE.

PINKY FEELS
SO LIGHT--
SO LIFE-
LESS! WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE TO
HIM?!

THAT IS HOW I
FOUND THE
CHILD...

THE DIRE WRAITHS SEE THEIR
CHANCE TO SOW THE SEEDS
OF DISCORD.

LIAR!
MURDERER!
IT WAS YOU
WHO
HARMED
OUR CHIL-
DREN!

I DID
NOTHING...

DON'T LISTEN
TO HIM! HE'S NOT
EVEN HUMAN!

I WAS AS HUMAN AS YOU --ONCE. THEN THE DIRE WRAITHS CAME TO MY WORLD, GILADOR, IN DEFENSE OF OUR PLANET. THE FLOWER OF OUR YOUTH SACRIFICED THEIR HUMANITY TO BECOME SPACEKNIGHTS!

THE WAR WAS WON, THE WRAITHS DEFEATED. YET, WE COULD NOT RECLAIM OUR HUMANITY SO LONG AS THEY POSED A PERIL TO OTHER WORLDS.

THEY ARE HERE --ON EARTH --IN YOUR COMMUNITY. I HAVE DETECTED THEM.

IT MAY WELL BE THEY WHO HAVE HARMED YOUR CHILDREN.

YOU CAN'T FOOL US! YOU'RE THE ONLY ALIEN HERE! YOU HURT THE CHILDREN!



A STONE AGAINST SPACEKNIGHT ARMOR...



...CAN SERVE NO PURPOSE, SAVE TO FUNCTION AS A CATALYST WHEREBY REASON IS ERASED AND CHAOS TAKES OVER.

PERFECT THE HUMANS ATTACK ROM!



ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO BE HURT--IF NOT BY HIM, THEN IN THE CRUSH CAUSED BY THEIR OWN PANIC--AND THEN THEY WILL NEVER BELIEVE THE SPACEKNIGHT.



MY ENERGY ANALYZER IS NO WEAPON. IT IS MERELY A MEANS OF REVEALING... THE TRUTH.

IF THERE BE DIRE WRAITHS AMONG YOU, INCITING YOU HUMANS TO RIOT. I WILL SOON FIND THEM OUT.

BUT THE WRAITH REMAINING IN THE CROWD IS--AS HE HAD PREDICTED--ABLE TO DEFY DETECTION...





I AM
STARDUST!
I WANT YOUR
LIFE!

CHAPTER TWO

THE
SCOURGE
FROM
SPACE!



AS HE DID
WITH THE
CHILDREN,
TURIN GAR
CONSUMES
THE WRAITH'S
LIFE-ENERGIES.



HOWEVER THE
CHILDREN HAD
ONLY YIELDED
SOME OF THEIR
MOLECULAR
MATTER. THE
WRAITH YIELDS
ALL.



INTERESTING THIS
WORLD SHELTERS TWO
DISTINCT INTELLIGENT
LIFE-FORMS... ONE
FAR MORE SATISFYING
THAN THE OTHER.



THE DIRE WRAITHS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE POWER STATION. IN THE GUISE OF WORKMEN, THEY HAVE BUILT THEIR GIANT JAMMER WITHIN IT, AND STOCKED IT WITH WRAITH WEAPONS.



MORE MASS TO THE BODY! MORE!



THE WRAITHS DIE TURNING TO DUST.

THE DUST TURNS TO MOLECULAR MATTER.



WHY DO WE COMBAT THIS CREATURE IN OUR POWERLESS HUMAN FORMS--

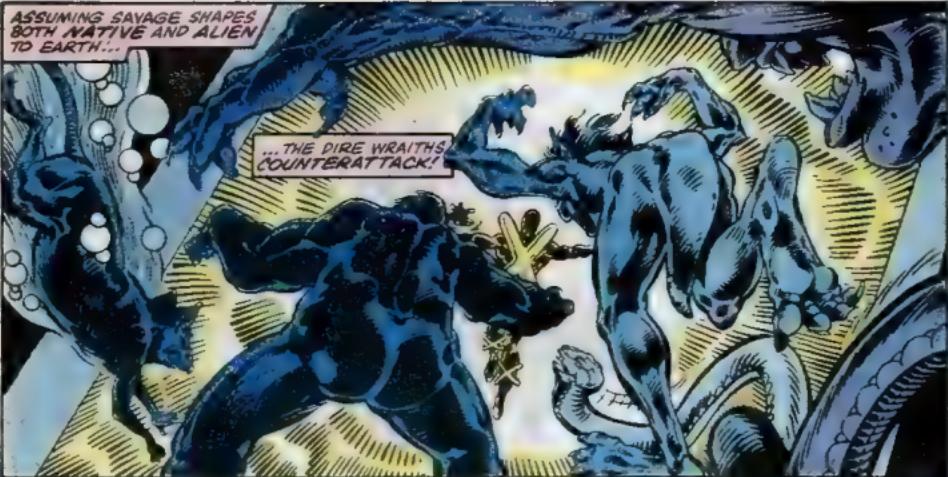


--WHEN WE CAN ASSUME--



ASSUMING SAVAGE SHAPES
BOTH NATIVE AND ALIEN
TO EARTH...

...THE DIRE WRAITHS
COUNTERATTACK!



YET NO SHAPE RENDERS THEM
IMMUNE TO THE SWIRLING STAR-
STUFF...



WHICH ABSORBS
THEM INTO THE MASS
OF TURIN G'AR.



ONLY ONE
WRAITH
REMAINS.



EITHER VERY WISE
OR VERY COWARDLY,
HE HAD ASSUMED A
SHAPE WHICH STAR-
DUST MIGHT OVER-
LOOK.







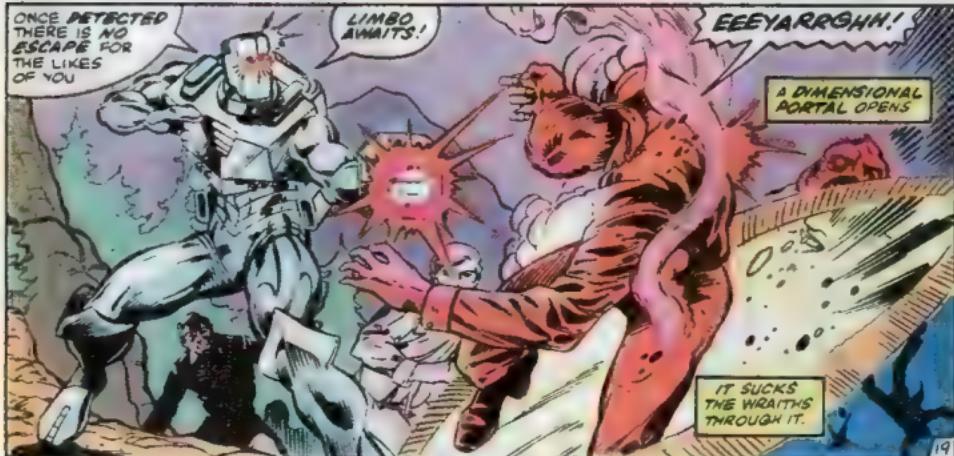
... AND THIS TIME, THE DIRE WRAITHS ARE REVEALED.

SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO OUR JAMMERS!

ROM SEES US FOR WHAT WE ARE!

BUT THE HUMANS DO NOT! LET US SACRIFICE THEM TO SHIELD OUR ESCAPE!

WILL YOU NEVER LEARN WRAITHS?



...LEAVING
ONLY
MALODOROUS
MOUNDS OF
ASH.

H-HALF A
DOZEN
TOWNS--
PEOPLE--
DISINTE-
GRATED!!

I-I TRIED TO HOLD 'EM BACK--
TRYED TO BELIEVE YOU REALLY HAD
SAVED THE CHILDREN FROM
SOMETHIN' ELSE AN' NOT
HARMED 'EM YOURSELF!



--AN' I AIM
TO BRING
YOU IN!



...BUT LEAD FLATTENS AGAINST
SLEEK SILVER ARMOR, AND AT
LAST THE SALADORIAN HAS HAD
ENOUGH!

HUMAN, EACH MOMENT
I WASTE UPON YOUR FOOL-
ISHNESS BRINGS YOUR
CHILDREN THAT MUCH
CLOSER TO DEATH!

SOMETHING STOLE THEIR
LIFE-ENERGIES! IT WAS ONLY
BY IMPARTING A SMALL
RATION OF MY OWN
VITALITY TO EACH OF
THEM, THAT THEY
YET SURVIVE!



BUT, TO BE WHOLE,
THEIR LIFE-
ENERGIES MUST BE
RESTORED TO
THEM BY THE THIEF
WHO STOLE THEM IN
THE FIRST PLACE!





... AND THE
DRE WRAITH
RECEIVES THAT
MERCY FOR
WHICH HE
BIDDEN

NOW I SHALL SEE WITH MY
OWN CYBORG VISION THAT
WHICH THE WRAITH FEARED
SO GREATLY!

ALREADY DO
I BEGIN TO
SUSPECT 'TWILL
BE THE SAME
FORCE WHICH
HARMED THE
CHILDREN.'

CHAPTER THREE:

TO SLAY A SOUL- THIEF!

INSIDE THE POWER
STATION, THE LAST OF
THE DRE WRAITHS
SUCCUMBS TO THE
ENERGY-SAPPING EVIL
OF STARDUST!

MORE! TO
GROW IN POWER,
THE BODY
MUST HAVE EVER
MORE!

BE ONE WITH
ME, WRAITH-THING.
LET YOUR LIFE
FLOW FORTH INTO
MINE!



EH? A BEING UNLIKE ANY OTHER I HAVE SCANNED SINCE COMING TO THIS PLANET! YOU ARE BOTH WARM...AND COLD.







OUTSIDE THE POWER PLANT, THE REMAINING DIRE WRAITHS GATHER...

ROM IS BATTING ITS ATTENTION FROM US!

WHICHEVER ONE WINS, WE ARE STILL ENDANGERED!

PROJECT JAMMER IS DESTROYED! WE MUST FLEE!

BUT OUR JAMMER SECRETS ARE STORED IN THIS VAN--WE CANNOT LEAVE IT TO BE FOUND BY ROM!

AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LEAVES ONLY ROOM ENOUGH IN THE VAN FOR TWO!

TH--THEY'RE DRIVING OFF WITH-OUT US--LEAVING US TO DIE!

DON'T BE A FOOL! WE ARE ALL EXPENDABLE! BESIDES, WE MAY STILL ESCAPE--

--BY ASSUMING ANY SHAPE WE CHOOSE AND FLEEING FROM CARSON'S GLEN!

ONLY THIS TOWN IS LOST TO US! THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHERS ON EARTH IN WHICH TO START ANEW!

AND, INSIDE THE POWER PLANT--

STARSTUFF BONDS, SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH RING ME, NOW BIND YOU, SPACEKNIGHT...

CREATURE, YOU HAVE DEFILED ME WITH YOUR UNHOLY EXAMINATION.

...AND, HELD HELPLESS IN THEIR CIRCLE, YOU CANNOT PREVENT ME FROM ANALYZING YOU!

STARSTUFF'S EYES SEEM TO PENETRATE TO ROM'S VERY SOUL, STRIPPING ASIDE THE SHELL OF PLANDIUM ARMOR AND REVEALING THE MAN WITHIN.

IT IS NOT A PLEASANT SENSATION.

ANY INCLINATION I MIGHT HAVE HAD TO SHOW YOU MERCY EXISTS NO LONGER

I HAVE SUFFERED YOUR POWER,
NOW YOU SHALL SUFFER MINE!



THE POWER OF
GALADOR'S
GREATEST
WEAPON...

...THE NEUTRALIZER OF
ROM, SPACEKNIGHT!



AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, THE
NEUTRALIZER NEUTRALIZES
ENERGY IN ALL ITS MYRIAD
FORMS...



...AMONG THOSE FORMS
BEING THE STARSTUFF
BONDS THAT BIND BOTH
ROM AND STARDUST.

INCREDIBLE! YOU HAVE ACHIEVED
WHAT I DESPITE ALL MY POWER,
COULD NOT!



YOU HAVE
SHATTERED THE
STARSTUFF
BANDS IMPOSED
UPON ME BY THE
BODY!

YOU HAVE FREED ME,
THAT I MIGHT UNLEASH
ALL MY LATENT POWER
AGAINST YOU!

ARRGHHH!

I HAVE
ERRED
MOST
GRIEV-
OUSLY!



I HAVE FREED STARDUST FROM
THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON
HIM BY SOME ENTITY HE
CALLS "THE BODY!"



EVEN NOW HE SHEDS HIS
HUMANOID SHAPE AND
MERGES WITH THE VERY
FABRIC OF SPACE!

HIS POWER IS VAST,
EVIL; UNLIMITED!

AND YET, THE BODY
CONTAINED HIM -- BY
ENCIRCLING HIM WITHIN
HIS STARDUST BELT!

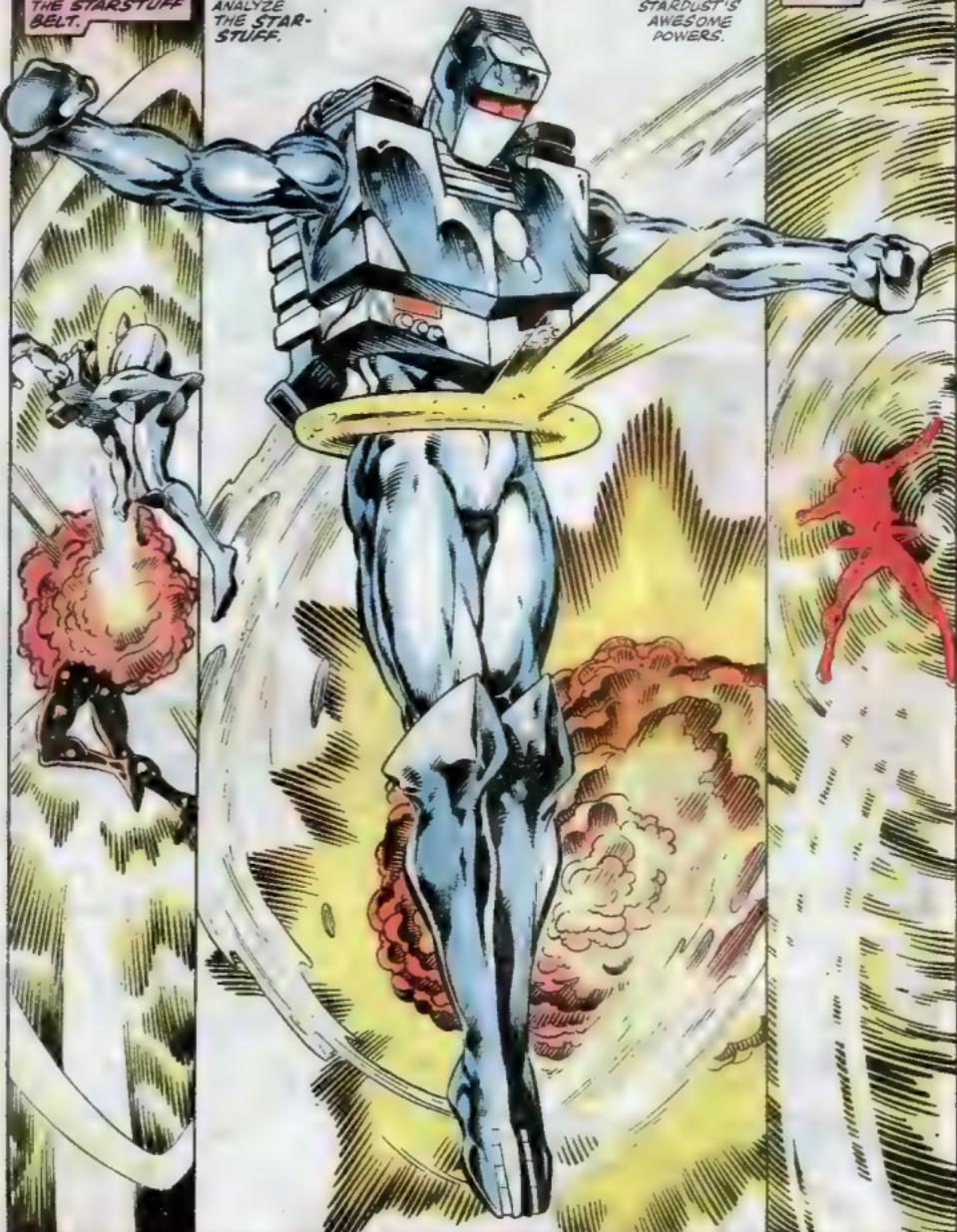
PERHAPS IF I CAN
EMPLOY THIS BELT
AGAINST STARDUST,
ALL IS NOT LOST!

SWIRLING MADLY IN THE STAR-STORM CAUSED BY STAR-DUST, RON DONS THE STARSTUFF BELT.

SENSORS INTER-WOVEN THROUGHOUT HIS CYBORG CIRCUITS ANALYZE THE STAR-STUFF.

MASTERING THE BELT, RON REALIZES ITS PURPOSE WAS TO CONTAIN STARDUST'S AWESOME POWERS.

IF IT COULD DO SO ONCE, SURELY IT CAN DO SO AGAIN!



BUT THIS TIME IT IS NOT THE INFINITE ENTITY, THE BODY THAT COMMANDS THE STARSTUFF TO BIND STARDUST... IT IS RON OF GALADOR--THE GREATEST SPACEKNIGHT OF THEM ALL!

THOUGH HE FIGHTS FURIOUSLY FOR SURVIVAL, STARDUST IS BOUND BY THE STARSTUFF SHACKLES SENT FORTH BY ROM.

HE IMPLODES! HIS ENERGY COLLAPSES UP-ON ITSELF...

...AND IS DRAWN INTO ROM'S CIRCUITS!

AS STARDUST HAD STOLEN THE LIFE-ENERGIES OF OTHERS...

...SO HAS ROM NOW STOLEN HIS!

THE QUESTION THE SLEEK SILVER SPACEKNIGHT MUST NOW ASK HIMSELF IS:

WHAT TO DO WITH THE POWER OF THE STARS?

COULD HE NOT, IN ONE FELL SWOOP, ERADICATE ALL TRACE OF WRATHKIND FROM EARTH?

PERHAPS.

BUT IT OCCURS TO ROM THAT THERE IS A MORE IMMEDIATE USE TO WHICH HE MUST PUT THIS POWER.

BURSTING WITH INCREDIBLE ENERGY, THE CYBORG SOLDIER STEPS OUT INTO THE TOWN OF CARSON'S GLEN!

CHAPTER FOUR:

ROM, THE HEALER!

THE TOWING-
PEOPLE HAVE
GATHERED
AROUND THEIR
DEMOLISHED
POWER
PLANT...

...WAITING TO SEE WHO, OR
WHAT, WOULD EMERGE.

IT'S THE
ROBOT!

HE AIMS TO
DESTROY THE
ENTIRE TOWN!



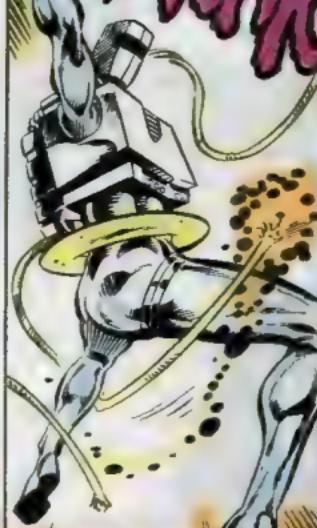
--BUT AT THE HIGH-TENSION WIRES HANGIN' OVER HIS HEAD!"

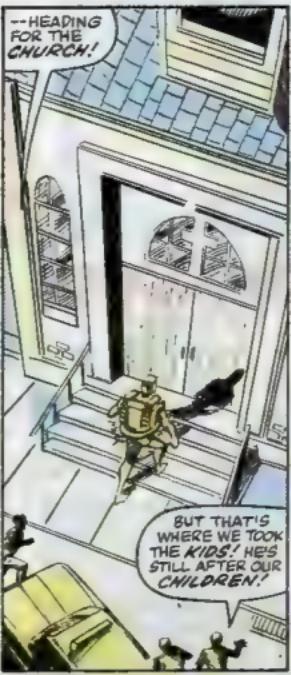


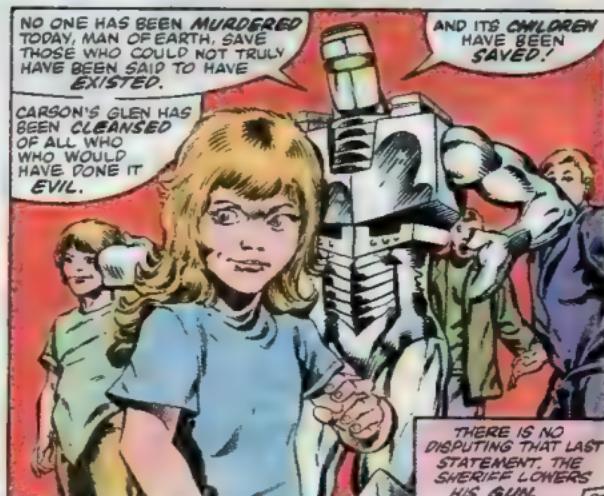
HUNDREDS OF VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY ENVELOP THE SPACEKNIGHT CALLED ROM.

ZZRAK

HE SHEDS THEM AS A DUCK SHEDS WATER.







I CAME IN PEACE, SEEKING AN EVIL IN YOUR MIDST. INSTEAD, I FOUND AN EVEN GREATER PERIL THAN I DARED EVER IMAGINE. BOTH THREATS ARE GONE NOW. CARSON'S GLEN HAS BEEN CLEANSED.



AND YOU, CHILDREN OF EARTH, HAVE BEEN MADE WHOLE AGAIN.

I PRAY YOU LIVE LONG AND PROSPER, AND NEVER KNOW FEAR AGAIN--



I-I DUNNO. MAYBE NEXT TIME WE'LL BELIEVE.

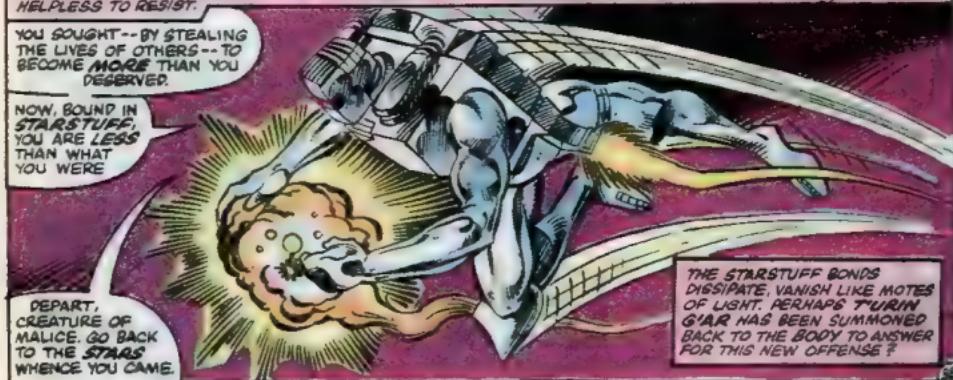
ON THAT DAY, MAN OF EARTH, THE CYBORG HEART OF ROM, SPACE-KNIGHT, WILL CRY FOR JOY! ROCKET-PODS FIRING, ROM IS GONE.

OUTSIDE OF CARSON'S GLEN, ROM REMOVES THE STARSTUFF BONDS, INSIDE WHICH THE EVIL ENTITY CALLED STARDUST IS TRAPPED. STARDUST IS SAPED OF ALL BUT THAT ENERGY HE NEEDS TO SURVIVE AND IS HELPLESS TO RESIST.

YOU SOUGHT -- BY STEALING THE LIVES OF OTHERS -- TO BECOME MORE THAN YOU DESERVED.

NOW, BOUND IN STARSTUFF, YOU ARE LESS THAN WHAT YOU WERE.

DEPART, CREATURE OF MALICE. GO BACK TO THE STARS whence you came.



THE STARSTUFF BONDS DISSIPATE, VANISH LIKE MOTES OF LIGHT. PERHAPS TURIN G'AR HAS BEEN SUMMONED BACK TO THE BODY TO ANSWER FOR THIS NEW OFFENSE?

MEANWHILE,
ROM SEEKS
OTHER
VILLAINY

AND ENERGY
ANALYZER
GUIDING HIM
UNERRINGLY, HE
FINDS THAT
WHICH HE SEEKS.

ALL THE
COMPONENTS
OF OUR GIANT
JAMMER ARE
IN THIS TRUCK!

WE'LL REBUILD
IT WHERE THAT
STINKING SILVER
SPACEKNIGHT
WILL NEVER
LOCATE IT!

THEN ALL
WRAITHKIND
WILL BE FREE
TO OPERATE ON
EARTH WITHOUT
THE FEAR OF
DISCOVERY!

WAIT! WHAT'S
THAT ON THE
ROAD
AHEAD?

IT'S ROM!
HE'S FOUND US!

QUICKLY--
TRANSFORM
AND ESCAPE!

TOO
LATE!

THROOM

GO NO FARTHER,
SHAPE-SHIFTING
OBSCENITIES!

NO BETTER EXTERMINATION
THAN DEATH
FOR THE LIKES OF
YOU

NO!
XALAGH!!

THERE IN LIMBO YOU CAN
SEE AND HEAR ALL THAT
TRANSPIRES, WRAITHS,
BUT YOU CAN INFECT
NOTHING WITH YOUR
EVIL.

ROM'S NEUTRALIZER
RIPS OPEN THE PORTAL
BETWEEN EARTH AND THE
DIMENSION CALLED LIMBO.
AND THE DIRE WRAITHS
ARE DRAWN INEVITABLY
THROUGH.

TWIN PILES OF ASH
BEAR GRIM TESTIMONY
THAT ROM HAS DONE
HIS DUTY YET AGAIN.

FOR YOUR
ABHORRENT
KIND, THAT IS
A FATE FAR
WORSE THAN
DEATH.

THE TIME IS 200 YEARS AGO. AFTER LEAVING GALADOR, ROM RECEIVES A DISTRESS CALL-- FROM A FELLOW SPACENIGHT...

THERE, IN THAT DARK CLOUD, IS THE SOURCE OF THE SUMMONS!

TRAITOR!

GODS OF GALADOR,
IT IS GLORIOLE-- WHO
IS AMONG OUR THINKERS
SECOND ONLY TO THE
PRIME DIRECTOR
HIMSELF!

WHO COULD
HAVE DONE
THIS THING
TO HIM?

A GRANT/LIROQUE/MASTYAR/KAWICKI/ SEAN JAHLGREN
PRODUCTION-- BROUGHT TO YOU BY JIM SHOOTER

R-ROM, MY OLD
FRIEND? OR IS
THIS ANOTHER
TRICK OF THE
DIRE WRAITHS?

IF ROM YOU
ARE-- BEWARE!

TOO LATE,
SPACENIGHT!
OUR TRAP IS
SPRING!

MONTHS!

NOW, ROM, THERE IS NO ESCAPE
FOR YOU--FOR MORE FORCES ARE
AT WORK HERE THAN YOU IMAGINE!



IN A WRAITH LABORATORY, ROM MAKES, BOUND--



--BUT THE TORMENT HIS CYBORG BODY FEELS IS NOTHING, COMPARED TO THE ANGUISH OF GLORIODE'S TREASON...

TRAITOR! HOW DID THE DIRE WRAITHS PERVERT THE LIGHT OF GALADOR--AND SEDUCE YOU TO THEIR CAUSE?



YOU MISJUDGE ME, ROM! I DO WHAT I DO FOR THE GOOD OF GALADOR!

AS A PEOPLE, WE EXCEL IN SCIENCE. BUT OUR FOES--THE WRAITHS--EMPLOY SORCERY, OF WHICH WE HAVE LITTLE KNOWLEDGE!



IN THE GLUISE OF RENEGADE, I SHALL PIERCE THE WRAITHS' SECRETS--WHILE FEIGNING TO GIVE THEM OURS!

YOUR CAPTURE WAS NECESSARY, AND BY YOUR SACRIFICE, GALADOR WILL GAIN THE MEANS TO THWART ANY WRAITH ATTACK!



YOUR ACTIONS REVEAL A DARK INTENT BEHIND YOUR NOBLE WORDS! IS MY LIFE WORTH NOTHING? DO YOU NOT FEAR FOR YOUR HUMANITY?



NO! HUMANITY AND LIFE COUNT FOR NOTHING! KNOWLEDGE IS EVERYTHING... THAT IS... I MEAN...

SUDDENLY...



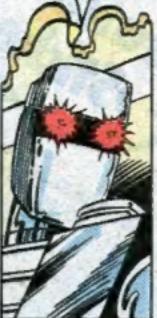
WE ARE DONE WITH WAITING, GLORIODE!

WHEN ROM IS A PRISONER OF THE DARK NEBULA, THEN SHALL YOUR TRAINING BEGIN!

SURELY THERE
IS NO NEED TO
TAKE HIM
THERE!

OUR WRAITHLORDS DESIRE
HIM FOR STUDY AND... ENTERTAINMENT! WITH THE SECRETS
IN HIS ARMOR, WE MAY YET
BREAK THE GATES OF LIMBO
--AND LOOSE OUR BROTHERS!

WHERE IS
YOUR WISDOM,
GLORIOLE? CAN
THE WRAITHS PLAY
EVEN GALADOR'S
GREATEST MINDS
FOR FOOLS?



SO! THE DOG
RETURNS TO HIS
OWN KENNEL!



YOU CHANGE SIDES TOO OFTEN,
CUR! DIE AND BE DONE WITH
YOU --



--AND WE WILL
ATTEND TO
ROM!



HA! HIS NEWFOUND
HONOR DID HIM
LITTLE GOOD!

I... HAVE NEVER... CARED
FOR HONOR! YET ROM AIDED
ME, WHEN HE THOUGHT I
WAS IN DANGER!



AS A FELLOW
SPACEKNIGHT...
I COULD DO NO
LESS FOR HIM!

YOU SURPRISE ME,
BUT ONLY BECAUSE
YOU CLING SO LONG
TO LIFE!

STILL, I
KNOW A CURE
FOR THAT!



GLORIOLE'S ACT OF
CONTRITION HAS WON
ME MY FREEDOM,
EVIL ONE!

